

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TOM J. DONOHUE

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe County's finest citizens, the late Tom J. Donohoe, "The big man with the big heart." Tom passed away on November 6, 2001. He was a personal friend of mine for many years, and he will be sorely missed.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Tom's family moved to North Carolina where he graduated from Biltmore High School in 1952. As an alumnus of Biltmore High School, saving the school from destruction became a pet project of Tom's in recent years. Last June the WNC Historical Association acquired the deed, and Tom sought my help for \$300,000 for the "Biltmore School Museum," which was provided in the 2002 Interior Appropriation.

After high school, Tom served in the United States Army and twelve years in the National Guard and Reserves. He was a man who loved his country, his community, and his people. Tom supported the East Asheville Youth Program for the past 47 years, giving freely of his time, materials, labor and money to this program, not for recognition but because he loved young people. Together, Tom and his wife Betty founded Asheville Electric forty years ago, building it into a thriving business, of which Tom was President, employing about 35 people.

When the new Reynolds High School was built, it was Tom Donohoe who offered to wire the school, and he drove to Kansas to get the famous "Rocket"—an Army surplus "Honest John" rocket—which he helped mount at the entrance to the school and is the school's mascot. Tom provided the lighting for the school's football and baseball stadiums.

Tom took an active part in politics in Asheville and Buncombe County. For many years he contributed to the campaigns of good men and women who ran for public office and stood as a candidate for Asheville City Council in 1989. He was well known for donning an apron and cooking at fundraisers for local candidates.

In addition to being a well-known businessman, Tom served two four-year terms on the Asheville Regional Airport Authority. During that time he served as vice-chairman, chairman of the building and grounds committee, and employee relations committee. He was also a Shriner with the Oasis Temple and a member of the Biltmore Masonic Lodge, Asheville York Rite and the Asheville Scottish Rite.

Tom married Betty Brittain 43 years ago, they reared two children: Susan Donohoe Martin of Asheville and Daniel Woron of Florida.

Tom Donohoe was a big man with an even bigger heart. WNC and Buncombe County have lost a very good friend and we will miss

him. I know that my colleagues will join me in saluting this fine man and community leader.

IN HONOR OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 2004, the Louisiana State University Tiger football team, my alma mater, defeated the Oklahoma Sooners 21–14 in the Nokia Sugar Bowl, securing the Bowl Championship Series National Title. The Fighting Tigers did their State proud by bringing home the first football National Championship in 45 years. This unique honor is one that every citizen in Louisiana will certainly cherish. LSU Chancellor Mark Emmert, Coach Nick Saban, the student-athletes, cheerleaders, members of the band and fans deserve a moment of recognition for a job well done.

However, the football team has not been the university's only champions this year. The women's indoor and outdoor track teams both earned the title of "best in the Nation"; the baseball team claimed first place in the Southeastern Conference, which propelled them to yet another College World Series. I know that fans throughout the country have watched with intense excitement as the Tigers distinguished themselves on the field of play.

LSU's accomplishments have in no way been limited to athletic achievements. As one of the Nation's largest institutions of higher learning, the university continues to raise its standards and increase its funds for research. In the last fiscal year, a record-breaking \$122.4 million was awarded to the school in the form of research awards and sponsored projects, establishing LSU as a significant player in the development of innovative ideas and technology. In the quest for increased technology, faculty and staff designed and developed SuperMike, one of the fastest computers on the face of the planet. This impressive machine is expected to do a myriad of important tasks from helping to develop the next generation of the Internet, TeraGrid, to modeling coastal erosion and storm damage.

In response to our country's heightened awareness to issues of national security, LSU has developed a National Center for Security and Research. The center will pull from experts in a number of LSU's departments as well as the private sector to share knowledge about the best ways to deal with national catastrophes.

While all of this has been going on, the faculty at LSU continue to be among the best in the Nation and have garnered awards too numerous to mention here. As a result, faculty pay has increased and the school has been able to retain and attract some of the country's greatest minds.

These accomplishments have translated into a rising bar for LSU students. The pool of ap-

plicants continues to increase while the standards for admission are the highest the university has ever seen. At the same time, LSU has been able to retain over 80 percent of its students and graduate more than half of its candidates. With admission requirements set to rise again in 2005, LSU will continue to offer an excellent affordable education to the young men and women who study there.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize some of the accomplishments of this fantastic institution. As LSU continues to strive for excellence, Louisiana can be proud that the university remains a respected national force in both athletics and academics.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER PHILIP A. JOHNSON, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 16, the First Congressional District of Alabama and, indeed, our entire State and Nation, said goodbye to another casualty of the war in Iraq.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Philip A. Johnson, Jr., was a native of Davenport, Iowa, and a longtime resident of Mobile, Alabama. He originally joined the United States Marine Corps in 1993 and transferred to the Army in 1997, where he was serving his 6th year. He was a member of the 501st Medivac Unit attached to the 4th Infantry Division. He and his wife, Melissa Johnson, a member of the Air Force, were living in Colorado Springs, Colorado, when Philip's unit was activated and deployed to Iraq last year.

On January 8, 2004, the medical helicopter he was on crashed about 4 miles south of Fallujah, a stronghold of anti-American insurgency. U.S. military officials have confirmed that a rocket struck the helicopter before it went down. CWO Johnson and eight other soldiers died in this crash.

Philip, who lived in Mobile for several years, was a devoted husband, son, and brother. He was a committed soldier who was not only doing what he wanted to do, but doing what he loved. He truly felt he was doing the right thing. Philip had given 9 years of his life fighting for the lives of the American people. Tragically, Philip A. Johnson, Jr., became the third soldier from Alabama's First Congressional District to die in Iraq.

According to his parents, Philip recently told them he never realized that you have to teach people to be free. His mother, Barbara Johnson, said, "He died doing what he loved; it was just a little early."

Mr. Speaker, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Philip A. Johnson, Jr. He represented what is best about America.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Chief Warrant Officer Philip A.

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